

Message Text

SECRET

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FOL RPT CAIRO 11416 ACTION SECSTATE 23 APR 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 11416

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FOR SAUNDERS FFOM ATHERTON

USDEL NO. 5

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.)
SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH KAMEL AND SADAT

1. WE MET FOR 2-1/2 HOURS SATURDAY EVENING IN CAIRO WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL, BOUTROS GHALI AND AHMED MAHER,
AND FOR 2-1/2 HOURS MIDDAY SUNDAY AT HURGHADA ON RED SEA

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WITH SADAT. MUBARAK, KAMEL, MAHER AND OSAMA AL-BAZ
WERE PRESENT AT LATTER MEETING ON EGYPTIAN SIDE. ON OUR
SIDE IT WAS EILTS, STERNER AND I.

2. IN BOTH MEETINGS, I MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION
BASED ON THE GUIDANCE APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY AND
DISCUSSED WITH YOU IN LONDON, THURSDAY MORNING. I

PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT IT REMAINS OUR OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE TO SEE SADAT INITIATIVE LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME AND REAFFIRMED PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S COMMITMENT TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO THAT END. DESPITE THIS, IN SATURDAY EVENING MEETING, KAMEL AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE IN A DISCOURAGED MOOD AS I OUTLINED FRANKLY TO THEM THE LIMITS OF WHAT WE BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE IN THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AT SEVERAL POINTS THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WE ARE BACKING AWAY FROM POSITION EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN THE PAST THAT, IN RETURN FOR FULL PEACE AND SECURITY, ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW TO THE 1967 LINES WITH ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS ON THE WEST BANK. I DID MY BEST TO REASSURE THEM ON THIS WHILE POINTING OUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT WE BELIEVE WOULD BE A REASONABLE OUTCOME OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EACH ARAB PARTY, AND WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED IN A SET OF PRINCIPLES AGREED BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL THAT WOULD SERVE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. MEETING WITH SADAT WAS MORE UPBEAT IN MOOD, ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS TO SORT OUT WITH THE EGYPTIANS, CERTAINLY MORE THAN CAN BE RESOLVED IN THIS ONE VISIT.

4. SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE A TIMELY REPORT ON ESSENTIAL
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DETAILS OF OUR TALKS HERE AS YOU PREPARE FOR DAYAN VISIT, I THINK THE BEST THING WILL BE FOR ME TO GIVE YOU THE MAIN POINTS AND RESULTS TO DATE ON THE SECURE PHONE AND THEN TO BRING FULL MEMCONS OF OUR TALKS WITH ME TO WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY. I WILL THEREFORE PLAN TO BOOK A SECURE PHONE CALL TO YOU AT 0830 WASHINGTON TIME, MONDAY, APRIL 24. PLEASE CONFIRM BY RETURN TELEGRAM WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS AGREEABLE TO YOU. MEANWHILE, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I THINK WE ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS ON THE OBJECTIVE SET FORTH IN MY INSTRUCTIONS.

5. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT AT THE END OF OUR MEETING SUNDAY, SADAT TOLD ME, AND ASKED ME SO TO INFORM THE PRESS, THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING A PERSONAL LETTER WITH ME FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THAT HE IS PREPARED TO SEND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL TO WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS IF THE SECRETARY WOULD FIND THIS USEFUL. YOU WILL SEE FROM TRANSCRIPT OF MY COMMENTS TO THE PRESS AFTER THE SADAT MEETING THAT I MADE BOTH OF THESE POINTS.

6. YOU MAY WANT TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY GO HE WILL HAVE A STATUS REPORT BEFORE HE RETURNS TO

WASHINGTON. EILTS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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